



March 30, 2015

Steven Bloch
Capitol Strategies

Dear Mr. Bloch,

As you are aware that Pinal County is the home to a major ICE Detention facility in Florence. Recently we were notified that one of the undocumented immigrants who has drug resistant tuberculosis is likely to be released to our community. This individual has been undergoing treatment for the past 7 months in this facility and according to ICE staff they don't believe they will have a legal basis to continue to hold him. I have been the director of public health for Pinal County for the past 11 years and this is the first case where we have had an undocumented immigrant with active TB released to our community so clearly this is a change in policy that has a very real impact to our County.

Tuberculosis is a very dangerous disease that can spread easily, due to the public health threat Arizona Revised Statutes and good public health practice dictates that we provide healthcare to treat tuberculosis for anyone residing in our county (other than those incarcerated) as a result when the ICE facility releases this individual he will be treated at the local tax payers' expense. We anticipate that this case will require housing and medical care for 18 to 24 months and will likely have a \$200,000 impact to the County.

Each year we have approximately 35 cases of active TB that go through the ICE facility and until now they are routinely treated and deported. I am very concerned that the recent change in ICE policy will require my county or another Arizona County to foot the bill for these individuals who should be the responsibility of the federal government. From a public health perspective it is essential that anyone who is suffering from TB be treated so they are not a health threat to others, I request that ICE pay the costs of those who are released from their facility.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact me at 520-866-7326.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Schryer, MBA
Director of Public Health